

PREFACE

There have been significant advances in recent years concerning our understanding of role(s) of reactive oxygen and nitrogen species in the pathogenesis of disease in a number of different organs and tissues. These include the respiratory and pulmonary, gastrointestinal, cardiovascular, ocular, and neurologic systems. However, opportunities for scientists working in these different areas to communicate their findings and interact with each other are not at all common.

The purpose of the Second International Meeting on Oxygen/Nitrogen Radicals and Cellular Injury, which was held 7–10 September 1997, at the Washington Duke Inn on the campus of Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, was to provide a forum for discussion and debate on the most recent findings relevant to the cellular and molecular mechanisms by which reactive oxygen and nitrogen species are involved in the pathogenesis of diseases of different organs. It was anticipated that bringing together basic and clinical researchers from these different disciplines would allow those working on similar problems in disparate systems to become aware of recent advances and technologies that may be applicable to their own studies. The meeting included state-of-the-art lectures from renowned scientists as well as thematic platform and poster/discussion sections presenting recent findings from invited investigators in the field.

The meeting was attended by over 200 academic, industry, and government scientists from 11 different countries. The meeting was the second in a series that began in August 1993. The initial meeting in 1993 was restricted to oxygen radicals and their effects on pulmonary pathobiology. The second meeting incorporated nitrogen radicals and other organ systems in its theme.

The meeting was quite successful in providing a forum for presentation and discussion of the mechanisms of cellular injury associated with reactive species of oxygen and nitrogen in a number of different tissues and organ systems. Grateful thanks are due the members of the organizing committee, as well as the companies and organizations, listed on the title page, who contributed to the meeting. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for the year 2001 in Burlington, Vermont, to be organized by Dr. Brooke T. Mossman of the University of Vermont.

The enclosed papers are peer-reviewed manuscripts submitted by invited speakers to this meeting. Although many of these papers are based on material presented at this conference, the monograph does not contain all the material presented at the conference and contains papers that were not presented at the meeting, with many individuals as first authors who were not speakers.

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